

**ABSTRACT**

In an exhaust passage (31) of an internal combustion engine (30) is arranged an absorbent catalyst (2) comprising a zeolite having a three-dimensional structure in which series of stacked rings consisting of a specific number of members intersect series of stacked rings consisting of a different specific number of members, so that HC contained in exhaust gas is held in the absorbent catalyst (2) until a catalyst for converting HC contained in exhaust gas reaches a temperature at which the catalyst acts properly.